



## MINUTES

### BOARD OF ANIMAL SERVICES COMMISSIONERS CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Monday, January 24, 2005

9:00 a.m.

**CITY HALL**

**200 N. Spring St.**

**Room 1060**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**



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Commissioners: Kathleen Riordan, President  
Alex Rubalcava, Vice President  
Erika Brunson  
Tariq Khero  
Deborah A. Knaan

### **COMMISSION MEETING, 9:00 A.M.**

The Commission meeting was called to order by Commissioner Riordan at 9:12 a.m. Present were Commissioners Brunson, Khero, Knaan, Riordan, and Rubalcava.

#### **1. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER**

Mr. Guerdon Stuckey, General Manager, reported on the following items:

- Two officers were injured while investigating two separate humane issues.
- The Department has had four (4) Department Air Rescue Team activations.
- On February 12, 2005 the Department is partnering with the Rescue Alliance for a "Save A Sweetheart" Adoption Event at the South Los Angeles Shelter.
- Signage has been placed in all the shelters in English and Spanish informing the public that their animals may be euthanized if turned into the shelter.  
Commissioner Knaan requested the signage be placed on the door before the person even enters the shelters. Mr. Stuckey will look into this.

#### **2. COMMISSION BUSINESS**

##### **A. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of December 13, 2004**

Commissioner Knaan made a motion to approve the minutes, Commissioner Brunson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **B. Meetings/Events Attended**

Nothing to report.

##### **C. Consideration of Future Agenda Items**

Commissioner Knaan requested that the Spay Day promotion in February and the opening of spay and neuter clinics be placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Riordan requested the Participant Shelter Ordinance Board Report be placed on the agenda for February 14, 2005.

Commissioner Brunson requested that improving dog licensing efforts should be placed a future agenda.

### **3. GENERAL MANAGER RECOMMENDS FOR BOARD ACTION**

#### **A. Board Report: Multi-Year Dog License**

Mr. Ross Pool, Management Analyst I, requested the Commission to maintain the current license policy of offering City residents non-discounted two-year dog licenses to dog owners and to actively advertise the opportunity to license dogs for a two-year period. Commissioner Rubalcava made a motion to offer City residents non-discounted two-year and three-year licenses for altered dogs and actively advertise the opportunity to license dogs for a two and three-year period. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brunson, the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Dov Lesel, Deputy City Attorney, indicated he will draft an amendment to the ordinance that will have to be sent to Public Safety Committee and then to City Council before it can be implemented.

#### Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty: A 3-year license should not apply to unaltered animals.

Zsuzsa Blakely: Get rid of the \$100 fee for everyone.

Lois Newman: Altered dog license fee report should be presented at next meeting.

#### **B. Board Report: People Who Care (Continued from 12/13/04)**

Mr. Dov Lesel, Deputy City Attorney presented the details and guidelines of the People Who Care Program. After a discussion regarding the collection of funds for sick and injured animals from the animal owners, if there is one, and the reimbursement of expenses to the person who paid the medical bills Commissioner Rubalcava made a motion to reject the report; Commissioner Knaan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The public currently are able to donate funds to care for sick animals to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund.

#### Public Comment:

Zsuzsa Blakely: Does not support taking animals away from their owners. The City is full of people who won't pay the bills for their sick animals.

Mary Catalano: Owners dump their animals because they are sick. They think the Department will fix their animals and they can have them back.

#### **C. Board Report: Participant Shelter Ordinance Particularly LAMC 53.11 (o) and (p)**

The Department was not prepared to report on this item. Commissioner Khoro made a motion to allow the Commission to discuss this item for five (5) minutes; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Khoro, the motion passed unanimously.

#### Public Comment:

Phyllis Daugherty: Section (o) and (p) had private citizens included in the same as others.

**Please join us at our website: [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com)**

Zsuzsa Blakely: Not legal to charge the public \$100.

Mary Catalano: People who do not live in the City should have the same fines as residents.

D. Board Report: Internal Transfer of Animals

Ms. Regina Adams, Assistant General Manager, provided information on when animals would be transferred and the guidelines for transferring the animals. Commissioner Rubalcava made a motion to approve the policy; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Brunson. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Mary Catalano: Good idea. Pit Bulls should not be discriminated against. Transfers should be made before the kill list.

Zsuzsa Blakely: SLA is not overcrowded. WLA would be the only place to send animals.

E. Board Report: Re-release of Dog and Cat Spay/Neuter Services Request for Proposal

Ms. Mary Carbajal, Management Analyst II, presented a report which requested the Commission to allow the Department to re-release the Request for Proposal to operate a mobile spay and neuter van. Commission Khoro, Knaan and Rubalcava each made a separate motion to allow the Department to re-release the RFP with modifications to the number of surgeries and operating days, none of them received a second. Commissioner Khoro made a second motion to re-release the RFP and raise the minimum number of surgeries to 3,500 and operating days to a minimum of 4 days a week, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Rubalcava. The motion failed 2 to 2. Commissioner Khoro made a third motion to re-release the RFP and raise the minimum number of surgeries to 3,500 and minimum number of days of operation to 4 with additional modification being made to the RFP, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Knaan. The motion passed 3 to 1 with Commissioner Rubalcava voting nay.

Public Comment:

Zsuzsa Blakely: Something should be done to open the clinics.

Teri Austin: One fee was created because the cost of sterilizing a large dog and a small cat would even everything out. Maybe the Department should mandate the contractor sterilize 50% cats and 50% dogs in the RFP.

Pam Wilkinson: The Canvasser's work well with the van. Reducing the days of operation will create

more unwanted animals. Don't release the RFP during the holidays.

Mary Catalano: Why make the contractor do the advertising for the program?

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - (Comments from the public on items of public interest within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction.)**

Mary Catalano: Wants the van to operate in the evenings. Shelter staff have poor attitudes on adoptions.

Phyllis Daughtery: Signs outside the shelters are not a good idea, the person won't get the

counseling

in the shelter. Should consider 10% discount on three year licensing. People who care can donate to the Animal Welfare Trust Fund and their names could be placed on the website. Maricopa County has 3 full time sheriffs for animal cruelty.

Lois Newman: Commented on the Food and Agriculture Code and the violations she believes the Department is committing.

Zsuzsa Blakely: Can't find good help in the shelter. Easy to dump animals, not so easy to take them out. People need to know that animals will be euthanized. Medical reports are available on all animals. Elephants are dying at the zoo.

Michelle Kelly: Animals are receiving better care in the shelter. Request rabbit spay and neuter be placed on a future agenda.

Melanie Pozez: Pulled a mom and pups from the shelter and paid \$350, one of the pups died. Had a wonderful experience at the East Valley Shelter.

Pam Wilkinson: Thanked the Commission for their interest in the mobile spay and neuter van.

Commissioner Riordon announced that the Animal Abuse Task Force had not been named yet pending a Police Commission vote.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.